



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

8:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2009-0032 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 20, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2009-0027 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Sandy McMillin - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Stonington Lodge #26 IOOF - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Various Donations - \$235.88 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Pfizer United Way Campaign - \$20.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2008-0122 Joint Meeting with the Stonington Board of Selectmen

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0243 Reuse of Colonel Ledyard School

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0281 Authorization of Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0014 FYE 2008 CAFR

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0021 Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut Grant - Mystic & Noank Library

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0022 Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut Grant - Bill Memorial Library

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0037 Appointment of James Mitchell to Board of Assessment Appeals

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0038 Appointment of Maureen Lage to Board of Assessment Appeals

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

III. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0243 Reuse of Colonel Ledyard School

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROCESS FOR LEASING THE COLONEL LEDYARD SCHOOL TO THE CITY OF GROTON

WHEREAS, recent construction of new schools has left the Town of Groton with properties that are currently unused, including the Colonel Ledyard School, situated within the City of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council deems it to be the best use of that school, and to be in the long term interest of the Town's taxpayers, that the Town retain ownership of the property for civic purposes, and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has stated its urgent need for space adjacent to its Municipal Building, and

WHEREAS, leasing the Colonel Ledyard School property to the City at a nominal rent could also allow for other, concurrent use of some part of the school, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may conduct negotiations over all terms and conditions of a lease of the Colonel Ledyard School property in favor of the City of Groton, such lease to be returned to the Town Council for final approval, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the interest of due diligence concerning the value of a Town property that may be leased, sold, or otherwise encumbered, the Town Manager is directed to obtain a standard professional appraisal of the Colonel Ledyard School property, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers this matter to the Groton Planning Commission for consideration under CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Brown-Tracy, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission.

Councilor O'Beirne questioned the need for an appraisal, while Councilors Sheets and Councilor Schmidt expressed their support for one.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

2008-0281 Authorization of Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING A GUIDEBOOK TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, the 2008 Charter Revision Commission Final Report recommended that an authoritative guidebook to boards and commissions (ABC) be adopted by the Town Council to replace the descriptions in the 1987 Town Charter, and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Town Charter contains the following:

Section 8.1.6 Guidebook

Descriptions of individual ABC shall be in accordance with the laws which have established them and delineated in a Council-approved Town publication: "Guidebook to the Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils."
and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the Town Clerk's proposed publication which delineates all permanent and/or statutorily-authorized ABC, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts and approves the "Guidebook to the Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils" adding the subtitle "including the Authorized ABCs", and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Town Clerk be responsible for the maintenance and publication of said "Guidebook" including any future addendum, and that the Office be authorized to make minor revisions upon notification to the Town Council, and that all major revisions be reviewed and approved by the Town Council.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0014**FYE 2008 CAFR****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FYE 2008 AUDIT REPORT**

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the annual audit of the Town of Groton's finances, covering the fiscal year from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Council has discussed the audit findings with the manager of the audit team from the firm of Blum Shapiro, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts and files the FYE 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Auditor's Reports and Management Letter.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Brown-Tracy, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0021**Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut Grant - Mystic & Noank Library****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN AN AFFIDAVIT FOR A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT FOR MYSTIC & NOANK LIBRARY**

WHEREAS, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut has announced the availability of a grant program called the "Love our Libraries Initiative" for 13 area libraries, and

WHEREAS, the Mystic & Noank Library is proposing that these funds be used to provide an area for, and increase services to, teens; add technology; and rearrange the collection to make the space more efficient and user-friendly; and

WHEREAS, a condition of the Community Foundation grant is the assurance, by the Town, that the receipt of grant funds will not be used to displace funding or budget appropriations that would normally have been given to the Mystic & Noank Library, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign a letter of intent, on behalf of the Town Council, to comply with the Foundation's criteria for the Mystic & Noank Library's grant application.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0022 Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut Grant - Bill Memorial Library

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN AN AFFIDAVIT FOR A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT FOR BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

WHEREAS, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut has announced the availability of a grant program called the "Love our Libraries Initiative" for 13 area libraries, and

WHEREAS, the Bill Memorial Library is proposing that these funds be used to provide additional meeting space at their facility, and

WHEREAS, a condition of the Community Foundation grant is the assurance, by the Town, that the receipt of grant funds will not be used to displace funding or budget appropriations that would normally have been given to the Bill Memorial Library, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign a letter of intent, on behalf of the Town Council, to comply with the Foundation's criteria for the Bill Memorial Library's grant application.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0037 Appointment of James Mitchell to Board of Assessment Appeals

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JAMES MITCHELL TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that James Mitchell, 711 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, is appointed as an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending 12/31/11.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

This resolution is to appoint Mr. Mitchell as a member of the Assessment Board of Appeals, not an alternate.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0038 Appointment of Maureen Lage to Board of Assessment Appeals

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MAUREEN J. LAGE TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Maureen J. Lage, 120 Anchorage Circle, is appointed as an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending 12/31/11.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Streeter and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Nicki Bresnayan, Executive Assistant